

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 25**  
**INCIDENT NO. 99-009**  
**DATE: July 13, 1999      TIME: 2:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Storms and flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: A recent flood statement issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) reiterated earlier forecasts calling for Devils Lake to crest from 1,447.5 to 1,448 feet by August. The lake level at Creel Bay measured 1,447.09 feet on July 13. The forecast is based on normal precipitation and evaporation. The lake could crest above 1,448 feet if the Devils Lake Basin receives above normal precipitation and below normal evaporation takes place. However, if below normal precipitation and above normal evaporation takes place, then the lake will crest below 1,447.5 feet. During June, the NWS reported that precipitation was slightly below normal at the city of Devils Lake (3.22 inches versus a normal of 3.35 inches) and slightly above normal at the city of Edmore (3.15 inches versus 2.93 inches). However, precipitation is significantly above normal thus far for July. Soil moisture also remains high over most of the basin with the highest soil moisture in the southern portion.

Devils Lake floodwaters continue to pond west of the natural divide between east Devils Lake and Stump Lake, the NWS has reported. The water is within a couple of inches of the elevation at which water would pass the divide toward Stump Lake. Only limited flows across the divide are expected for levels at Devils Lake below 1,448 feet.

Flash flooding occurred in the Solen area of Sioux County during a July 8 storm. Floodwaters washed out a county road at two locations and destroyed a large culvert.

In Traill County, trees, power poles and one metal building were destroyed during a thunderstorm that struck the city of Hillsboro on July 8. The city received two inches of rain within 20 minutes, causing streets to flood and lift stations to back up. Electrical service was restored within one hour of the storm, except the northern edge of Hillsboro where crews worked approximately seven hours to replace a transformer and a power pole owned by Nodak Electric. Four miles east of Hillsboro, winds that were clocked at 100 miles per hour (mph) uprooted trees and destroyed a metal building.

Emergency management staff in Grand Forks County reported that during the same storm that struck Traill County, the cities of Thompson, Buxton and Reynolds were without power for one hour. Rainfall amounted to 1.4 inches to 3 inches in southern areas of the county. During June, rainfall totals in Grand Forks County totaled 14.03 inches compared to 11.83 during June 1998. The county average is 8.80 inches. Prevented planting for the county this year ranges from 10 percent to 80 percent.

Flooding occurred in Forbes, and power outages were reported in Fullerton and Oakes during a July 8 storm that moved through Dickey County. Rainfall amounts ranged from 1.5 to 4.5 inches. The Forbes area was the hardest hit with 4.5 inches of rain. Water was flowing through the town and over the state line road. Rainfall inundated township roads that had been flooded earlier this spring. Lightning strikes caused power outages.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Voluntary Agency Section of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reminded volunteer agencies in the Cass County area to encourage residents and business owners who suffered losses during a July 4 storm to register for federal/state disaster assistance programs.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The disaster area for FEMA-1279-DR-ND has been amended to include three additional North Dakota counties, state and federal officials announced July 13. Individual Assistance and Public Assistance Programs have been designated for Cavalier, Eddy and Morton Counties. The additional designation brings the total to 42 counties and four Indian reservations eligible to receive assistance under the declaration.

Staff for the Crisis Counseling Program, operated by the N.D. Department of Human Services, has concentrated hiring efforts on selecting peer counselors who have an agricultural background. Staff members have also been providing training for 35 counselors who will work with disaster victims through August 8.

The Department of Human Services has secured a contract with Lutheran Social Services to provide counseling services in the Jamestown, Fargo and Grand Forks areas. Staff for the Lake Region Human Service Center will address the needs of Devils Lake area residents. The Mental Health Association in North Dakota will provide counseling services in the Bismarck-Mandan area. Residents of the Standing Rock Sioux, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Spirit Lake Sioux and Three Affiliate Tribes reservations will be hired to provide counseling on their reservations. The Department of Human Services is applying for a second grant that will extend the contract for counselors by nine months.

The Hillsboro Fire Department assisted with pumping at flooded lift stations during the July 8 storm.

Utility crews restored power to Dickey County areas impacted by a July 8 storm, and County Highway Department crews flagged roads that were either under water or impassible.

Officials for the cities of Wildrose in Williams County and Williston in Williams County have issued disaster declarations. To date, 42 counties, 35 cities and four Indian reservations have issued flood or storm emergency or disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Red Cross, consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: The next Devils Lake State Flood Coordination Center meeting has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m., July 22, at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room.

Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is:  
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director